

They Got By With a Little Help from their Friends

Seven Pryor Mountain wild horses made it safely back to their home range after being trapped on a rock ledge by the rising water of Bighorn Lake this summer.

The horses were discovered early in July on the west side of Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area near Crooked Creek Bay. The animals could reach water, but had no palatable food and had lost a significant amount of weight since they were last seen in early June. Further investigation showed that the rough terrain would not allow the animals to walk out, and that the shortest swim of more than a quarter mile would be too much for the weakened animals.

Employees from the BLM and National Park Service (Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area) constructed a rock pathway over a large boulder that had been blocking the only way out. As soon as the horses reached grass they stopped to eat, having been without their accustomed source of food for several days. Before constructing the trail, the BLM delivered hay to them by boat in an attempt to build their strength for the climb.

According to Linda Coates-Markle, Montana BLM wild horse specialist, personnel from the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area were instrumental in the rescue effort.

"They ferried us back and forth to the site several times in their boat and were a tremendous help in building the rock pathway. Friends of the Pryor Mountain herd owe the Park Service a big thanks," she said.

Coates-Markle added that the task of encouraging the horses to find the pathway and climb out of the canyon was a difficult one with several treacherous sections and took about six hours. Billings television station KTVQ-2 filmed the rescue effort.



Seven horses were trapped on a steep talus slope above Yellowtail Reservoir in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Above the horses is a vertical cliff 100 feet high. There was also a cliff of 20-40 feet below the horses as well. Although the horses could reach water, they lacked forage and subsisted upon mountain mahogany and juniper for up to three weeks.



This boulder was the primary obstacle preventing the horses from escaping. To allow the horses to pass, the wedged rocks on the left were removed and a ramp of rock and soil was built on the left side of the large boulder. Further up the canyon another smaller passage was widened, a large deadfall juniper was removed, and some brush was trimmed to open a trail with clear line of sight to encourage the animals to move with a minimum of pressure. (BLM photos)

A Message from the State Director

I've spent some sleepless nights lately, as I'm sure some of you have, wondering what the results of the Competitive Sourcing study would be. I'm relieved, as I'm sure all of you are, by the outcome.

The study confirmed that you who provide maintenance services perform your duties at the same or lower cost than a private contractor could – and you do it well. These findings reflect what I believe to be true throughout the Montana/Dakotas organization – that we provide quality service at a fair and reasonable cost.

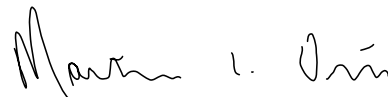
The public expects and demands these high standards, but no more so than we expect it of ourselves. While it is gratifying to have some hard figures to show that we are providing the best service and value that we can, we must not stop here. We are facing many more challenges in a number of arenas and need to continue looking for the best and most efficient ways to do business.

In the next three to five years, I would like to see:

- Montana/Dakotas BLM recognized as a model for responsible management and administration of its coal bed natural gas program.*
- Montana/Dakotas BLM joined with other agencies and interested parties to develop a high quality and effective program to manage OHV use on public lands.*
- The opportunity for high quality recreation on public lands expanded through the formation of cooperatives with other agencies or interested groups/organizations.*
- Management plans completed for the Dillon Field Office area and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.*
- The visitor centers at Fort Benton and Pompeys Pillar completed and fully operational; and our cooperative agreement with the city of Fort Benton healthy, productive and mutually beneficial.*

Good communication, both internally and with our publics, will play a key role in achieving these goals. Strong relationships are built on honest and candid communications. Let's concentrate on having "no surprises" and ensuring that those people who should be included are included.

BLM employees in Montana/Dakotas should understand that, together, we are the bureau's greatest asset. We need to value each other's opinion; listen and communicate regularly; support personal and professional growth; practice safe work habits; and take time to laugh together.



Crow Boundary Settlement Act Land Exchange Completed

Ann Boucher, MSO

The final phase of the Crow Boundary Settlement Act land exchange closed July 22 at the MSO in Billings. The exchange settles the 107th Meridian boundary dispute created by an erroneous survey made by the federal government in 1891. The survey error along the eastern boundary of the Crow Indian Reservation resulted in the exclusion of 36,000 acres of land from the reservation.

When the land exchange was completed, 44,020 acres valued at \$6,392,900 within the Crow Reservation had been converted to Indian Trust status, and 46,890 acres of BLM lands valued at \$6,394,400 were conveyed in order to acquire the non-Indian lands within the reservation.

The closing marks the end of a long process. Congress passed

the Crow Boundary Settlement Act in 1994, and the BLM has been processing the land exchange ever since.

"Finalizing the land exchange required a real team effort," said Dee Baxter, supervisory realty specialist. As the project lead, Russ Sorensen, who recently transferred to New Mexico, was instrumental in accomplishing the exchanges. In addition, most of the Montana field offices contributed land and realty

expertise, and the MSO Lands staff processed the exchanges. Tami Lorenz issued all the conveyance documents for all the exchanges, Kathy Iszler prepared all the exchange documents, and Howard Lemm provided key management support. Phyllis Brosz, Dee Baxter (Branch of Land Resources) and Rich Aldrich, field solicitor, were the only government employees who were involved in the project from start to finish.



Dee Baxter, supervisory realty specialist, and Joyce Sorg of First Montana Title Company, finalize paperwork for the Crow Boundary Settlement Act Land Exchange. Photo by Greg Albright.



They proceeded on . . .

Fall/Winter

Lewis and Clark Expedition establishes Camp Wood (also called Camp Dubois) on east bank of Mississippi, upstream from St. Louis. More men recruited and trained.



(source: www.PBS.org)

BLM Approves Horsethief Project

Mary Apple, MSO

The town of Roundup lies in the Bull Mountains of central Montana, about 50 miles north of Billings. High intensity wind-driven fires are common to this area at any time of year due to the dry climate. In 1984, the Hawk Fire burned 170,000 acres in six days south of Roundup, destroyed about 50 structures, and took a life. The area still resembles ground zero after a nuclear attack. In the spring of 2002, the Horsethief Fire burned 27 acres a few miles west of Roundup.

Most of the Bull Mountains are privately-owned, but there are also scattered parcels of BLM and state-administered lands. During the Horsethief Fire suppression activities, BLM fire officials learned of the existence of scores of homes and other structures hidden in the Horsethief Creek drainage—hidden because the area is heavily-forested with ponderosa pine and juniper. Subsequent investigation revealed that the Horsethief subdivision is comprised of over 100 tracts of private land plus some larger ranch holdings containing several dwellings and other structures. The BLM promptly added the Horsethief area to its “to-do” list of wildland urban interface projects because the hazards and risks to life, safety, and private property from a fire start are quite high.

The project was moved to the top of Montana’s list in January when Interior Secretary Norton announced it as one of 15 Healthy Forest pilot projects planned for this year. According to Norton, “We need to take action and leave a legacy of healthier lands and thriving communities.”

The Billings Field Office and Eastern Montana Fire Zone began gathering data on resources such as timber stands, fuels, wildlife, visual, and cultural in order to prepare an environmental assessment of the proposed Horsethief Hazard Fuels Reduction Project. Public lands in the project area total approximately 10,300, about 3,000 of which are forested. The project would involve several phases and combinations of



Horsethief Hazard Fuels Reduction Project Area. (BLM photo)

treatments. Initial treatment would consist of thinning the timber stands (including merchantable material, if present) and burning and/or chipping the slash. Follow-up treatments may include the use of prescribed burning.

The BLM hosted a public meeting in February in Roundup to explain the proposal to residents and obtain their feedback. Major concerns were the potential for escaped prescribed fires and the visual impacts of treatments. The BLM also encouraged participants to perform fuel reduction projects on their private lands and told them that grants were available for such projects.

After weeks of surveying and data gathering, the team working on the project formulated three proposed alternatives for analysis in the EA. Before finalizing the alternatives, the BLM went back to the public for more feedback, hosting a tour of the project area and another public meeting in Roundup in May. The final alternatives are: 1) no action, 2) modified forest health, and 3) forest health. The second alternative provides for intensive fuel reduction in areas closest to private lands and lower levels of treatment elsewhere to address visual and wildlife concerns. The forest health alternative would remove more fuel and would restore the forest to a healthier state with more biodiversity,



Any prescribed burns will have to avoid exposed coal seams such as this one. (BLM photo)

more vigorous trees, and greater protection to private lands from wildland fires.

The BLM released the EA for public review and comment on July 18 and received nine comments. Comments ranged from concerns over wildlife and soil erosion to recommendation of contractors to do the fuel reduction work. Billings Field Manager Sandy Brooks signed the decision approving Alternative B, the Proposed Action, on August 27. Fuel reduction treatment projects could begin this fall.

The Montana Department of Natural Resource Conservation and Musselshell County are cooperators in the proposed project. Smokejumpers from both the National Interagency Fire Center and the West Yellowstone Interagency Fire Center assisted in the data gathering phase of the project.

Wild Horse and Burro Program Uses the Buddy System

*Teri Bakken, MT/DKs WHB
Adoption Team Member*

The Billings Field Office hosted a wild horse and burro adoption near Kalispell during the first annual Equine Expo on April 12. Of the 76 animals (11 burros, 65 horses) offered, 62 found new homes.

Contributing greatly to the adoption's success was the new "Buddy Program," a trial program endorsed by the WO program office. Any qualified adopter bidding on an animal through the competitive bid process could adopt a second "buddy" animal for only \$25, provided the applicant was approved for that number of animals. All animals went through the competitive bid

process once, then any animals not receiving bids were offered in a second go round. Any animal not receiving bids in either round was available under the Buddy Program on a first come, first serve basis. Adopters were lined up well before the close of the second round, hoping to get their first choice for a buddy. Twenty-one additional animals were adopted under the program. The new program was similarly successful at recent adoptions in Mitchell, S.D., and Minot, N.D.

For The Love of Horses, an educational, rescue, and adoption program that finds homes for hard-to-place equines, sponsored the Expo at the Majestic Valley Arena, an impressive equine complex located between Kalispell and Whitefish. The group contacted the Billings Field Office and contributed funds to cover the travel expenses of the BLM adoption team. Due to budget constraints, the Kalispell adoption would not have been possible without the contributed funds.

This fall, the BLM's wild horse internet adoption will emphasize Spanish-type wild horses from BLM ranges, including the Sulphur range in Utah, the Kiger range in Oregon, and Montana's own Pryor Mountain range. The Pryor horses will be gathered September 24-26. Information on the internet adoption will be posted on the website around late September. Bidding for the adoption will start October 29 and continue through November 20. The internet adoption website is: <http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov/>

Our Recreation Attractions . . . Check 'em out!!



The woody draws of North Dakota's Schnell Recreation Area provide protected habitat for a variety of wildlife. (BLM photo)

Schnell Recreation Area

Location

25 miles east of Dickinson, North Dakota.

Description

Schnell Recreation Area now features 2,000 acres of native mixed-grass prairie and woody draws that have been set aside for wildlife habitat, environmental education, and outdoor recreation.

Directions

From Dickinson, drive about 25 miles east on Interstate 94. Take Exit 84 and go 1 mile north on State Highway 8 to Richardton. Turn right at the stop sign onto State Highway 10, and go east from Richardton about 1 mile. Then turn left onto the gravel County Road and follow it 1 mile north and 1 mile east to the campground. Signs direct visitors to the Recreation Area.

Visitor Activities

Picnicking, wildlife viewing, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, hunting, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

Special Features

Schnell Recreation Area features diverse native prairie and riparian areas, ponds, and hardwood draws, where centuries-old bur oaks thrive. Abundant wildlife on the property include duck, ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, whitetail and mule deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, porcupine, and neotropical migratory birds, such as bluebirds, warblers, and flickers.

Permits, Fees Limitations

The site is closed to motorized vehicles.

Accessibility

Restrooms are wheelchair-accessible.

Camping and Lodging

Primitive camping is allowed. Visitors can also enjoy solitude while camping in one of 6 sheltered, spacious campsites. Each campsite has a table, fire ring, grill, lantern post, and drinking water. There is a per-night fee for campsites, and a 14-day maximum stay.

Food and Supplies

Food and supplies are available in Richardton.

First Aid

First aid is available in Richardton. The nearest hospital is in Dickinson.

Contact Information

North Dakota Field Office

2933 Third Avenue West

Dickinson, ND 58601

Tel: (701) 225-9148

Fax: (701) 227-8510

www.mt.blm.gov/ndfo/pages/schnell.html

BLM DINOSAUR A RARE FIND

Text and Photos by Mark E. Jacobsen, Miles City Field Office

CARTER COUNTY, MT—
—Field staff members from the Burpee Museum of Natural History, Rockford, Illinois, wrapped up their field season in early August, gathering some last minute plant fossils discovered in relation to the “Jane” site, the second of the only two *Nanotyrannus* specimens known to science and another example of Eastern Montana’s best kept secrets.

The site, located on BLM ground in Carter County in the BLM Miles City Field Office district has given up a treasure trove of potential information, yielding plant fossils in the immediate context of the dinosaur remains. Such finds are relatively rare, according to Burpee Museum Curator of Earth Sciences Michael Henderson.

According to Henderson, most dinosaur fossils are found after “migrating” from their original resting sites and the conditions in which flora remains are preserved



Bill Harrison, Burpee Museum fieldworker and Spanish and Portuguese professor from Northern Illinois University and Michael Henderson, Curator of Earth Sciences for the Burpee Museum of Natural History, uncover plant fossils found with “Jane” a *Nanotyrannus* skeleton. The plants will be identified by species and added to a greater understanding of life during the late Cretaceous Period.

alongside fauna are a unique occurrence. Quite often bones are the only things that remain after millennia of chance geological processes, which result in the fossilization of prehistoric life forms. Jane as well as the accompanying plant fossils, dates back to the late Cretaceous period, 65 to 67 million years ago, the “twilight” of the age of dinosaurs.

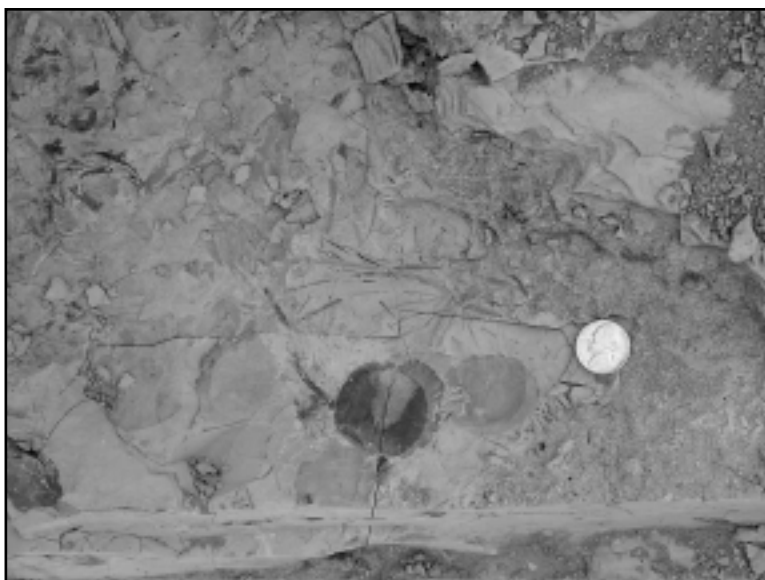
“We’ll take these fossils back to our lab and reconstruct the habitat in which Jane thrived,” said Henderson. “Jane is our claim to fame. No other museum has a specimen

like her, which makes the Chicago area museums somewhat envious.”

Henderson, along with crewmember Bill Harrison, a Spanish and Portuguese language professor from Northern Illinois University, gently teased the soft clay-sand stone matrix from

around the plant fossils with dental tools. The round shapes of small lily-like pads and root stems were readily apparent. Plant species identification should be relatively easy, said Harrison. The odd shaped blocks of rock were then wrapped and packed for transport.

According to Henderson, the first *Nanotyrannus* fossil was discovered in Carter County in the 1940s and until the recent discovery of Jane was the only specimen known to science. But Jane is not without controversy. There is some debate in scientific circles as to whether the two *Nanotyrannus* fossils are a distinct species, or simply juvenile *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. The species bear a strong resemblance to each other, yet



A rare find, fossilized leaf litter is evident on a slab of sandstone, dating back to the age of dinosaurs in the late Cretaceous Period.



Bill Harrison, Burpee Museum fieldworker and Spanish and Portuguese professor from Northern Illinois University, gently scrapes away the sandstone to expose a fossilized lily pad.

the relative scarcity of complete fossils make definite conclusions elusive. Nonetheless, certain traits indicate that Jane was a mature adult, such as her fused vertebra and hip bones. Her jawbone is also elongated, much like an adult's bone structure rather than the typical short-face of an adolescent.

According to the museum's website, Dr. Robert T. Baker, author of "The Dinosaur Heresies," is convinced Jane is indeed a separate species and is "...one of the ten most important dinosaur discoveries in the last one-hundred years."

The Burpee Museum maintains a web page devoted to Jane at: www.burpee.org/janegeneral.htm. *Nanotyrannus* fans can surf their way around a variety of Jane factoids, including "Jane's Dino Cam" where viewers can watch as Jane is liberated from the rock which has kept her hidden until now— another example of one of Eastern Montana's best-kept secrets.

The Notable Remains of the Edwin Wartzluft Homestead

Rest Deep in the Missouri Breaks

Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office

The unique old buildings of the Wartzluft homestead almost speak to you.

If you stop by this site deep in the Breaks on a cool, late-September morning you'll probably be moved to a more natural time and place. The wind moves constantly through the Ponderosa pines around the buildings, carrying the sounds of bugling elk and the chirp of prairie songbirds.

However, if you give the old buildings a chance, they'll tell you adventure seasoned with dreams of independence, hard work, limited success, a faltering economy during the 1920s, more hard work, then reality and changing directions in life. It was a common story throughout the homesteading era in the west.

Edwin Wartzluft and his son Paul found their way to Montana in 1914, and took adjacent homesteads in northern Petroleum County. The family was originally from Blandon County, Pa., but had relocated to Zion, Ill., for a time prior to being drawn west by the combined lure of conveyances such as the Homestead Act of 1862, the Desert Land Act of 1877, the Enlarged Homestead act of 1909, and the Stock Raising and Homestead Act of 1916.

Edwin and Paul quickly became known as masters at the art of hewing logs and meticulous carpenters. The remains of their homestead prove the point. They built a one and a half story home of hewn logs, shaved and notched and held together with wooden pegs. They didn't use a single nail during their construction work. They also built a barn with the same techniques, but on a larger scale.



These precise construction techniques resulted in buildings with a straight, flat facade. For a time, this homestead had to be the "Gem of the Breaks."

In 1920, Edwin received patent to his homestead.

It's a common assumption that the toil, hardship and difficult economy of the day created a load too heavy for many to bear (over half of all homesteads failed to "prove up"). For whatever reason, the Wartzluft homestead dream seemed to fade in the mid 1920s. Then in 1926, Edwin sold the place to a neighbor and moved back to Zion, Ill., to be closer to the rest of his family. That same year, Paul moved to Lewistown where he married and lived until his death in 1969.

For roughly the next 30 years, the new owners of the Wartzluft place used it as a sheep shearing and lambing camp and all activities around the place revolved around wool and mutton. With regular occupation and upkeep through these years, the unique buildings held their condition.

Then sometime after the late 1950s or early 1960s, the buildings were no longer occupied. The public record isn't clear about what

led the owners to abandon the home and barn.

The stature of the homestead immediately began to decline as the only occupants now were an occasional cow-calf pair and the never ending parade of rodents. It wasn't long before the buildings fell into disrepair under the weight of time, weather and a lack of maintenance.

Then in 1982, through another twist of fate, the Wartzluft homestead buildings found their way into public ownership when the homestead was acquired by BLM as part of a larger exchange. By this time the buildings were in poor condition, the roofs were gone and the rock foundations were crumbling.

The cultural resource program in the Lewistown Field Office found itself prioritizing numerous needs against a limited budget. A huge factor in determining where cultural resource stabilization funds are directed is whether or not a site is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

Because the workmanship common to the Wartzluft buildings is among the best of the time and place, the homestead site and buildings do qualify for listing to the National Register. This makes the path toward preservation a little clearer, but not without complication.

One of the most notable complications is that the Wartzluft workmanship is so unique that it's nearly impossible to duplicate with repair work. Matching the original construction technique and integrity (which is extremely important with any cultural property) would be

extremely time consuming, expensive and technically challenging.

The historic context and preservation section of the Lower Crooked Creek Watershed plan states that "saving the Wartzenluft should be the first priority if funding is available." Following the preparation of this watershed plan, it became apparent that some type of intermediate stabilization work was needed immediately or the unique home would collapse and be lost.

With a few dollars in hand, the cultural resource program in the Lewistown Field Office opted to take interim action this spring in order to keep the home standing. Replacing the roof, doors and windows were significant steps toward making the buildings weatherproof again. Then in June, four concrete pillars (18 inches in diameter and 6 feet long) were

installed under the foundation to keep the structure from settling and twisting any further. Several vertical, exterior support beams were also installed to keep the home from twisting.

The preservation work at the Wartzenluft homestead is far from finished.

However, additional stabilization efforts will depend on funding and the determination to match the original construction techniques.

While the materials used in these recent maintenance

steps don't match the original materials and probably detract slightly from the structure's appearance, this emergency first aid work will at least stabilize the buildings and keep them a part of the landscape in this remote portion of Petroleum County.



Emergency stabilization efforts will help protect this home on the Wartzenluft homestead from further deterioration. (Photos by Stanley Jaynes)



Sharon Gregory

Do you know who spent 18 years at the Lewistown Field Office with the BLM and whose plans after retirement include volunteering at the schools for the reading program, working on her house and spending time with her grandkids?

Sharon Gregory, range technician, retired August 1. She will join her husband John, who also recently retired, in traveling, hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with their grandkids. Sharon has lived in Lewistown for 23 years and raised her two daughters there, and she will stay in Lewistown after retirement. She is looking forward to having more time to enjoy her hobbies which include reading, sewing and gardening.

Sharon started her career with

the government on October 31, 1984, as a front desk receptionist. After eight years she advanced to a range clerk; then in 1997 she was promoted to a range technician. Sharon was involved with range inventories, monitoring, upland and riparian health assessments, utilization and compliance, and counting cattle onto the public lands. In addition she worked with the Grazing Authorization and Billings Systems (GABS), Rangeland Administration System (RAS), and the maintenance of all the range files for the Lewistown Field Office and part of the Great Falls Field Station and many other duties as assigned. Sharon stated the best part of her job was going to the field and learning about the plants, trees, and shrubs, and doing the inventories and counting the cattle onto the permits.

Sharon said her greatest achievement has been "being comfortable with helping permittees with their transfers, bills and range regulation questions." The range staff at Lewistown will

definitely feel the impact when Sharon leaves as she has been a great asset to the program and has taken some pressure off the range specialist with her familiarity with the area and the permittees and her knowledge of the regulations. Sharon mentioned she would miss the people and the friends she'd made at the BLM, and it would be hard to not see everyone all the time. Sharon's advice to any BLM newcomer is, "Keep a positive attitude and enjoy yourself. Try not to listen to the negative attitudes and don't let it bother you. It all the pays the same!" (Story and photo by Kaylene Patten, Lewistown FO)



Blackleaf Project Tour

Kaylene Patten, Lewistown Field Office

On June 17, the Central Montana Resource Advisory Council toured the Rocky Mountain Front just northwest of Choteau to learn about natural gas production proposed there. Because of past natural gas production here, BLM representatives were able to show the RAC members what the different stages of production look like.

The goal of the tour was to assist RAC members in gaining a basic understanding of proposed natural gas production so they may better understand the type of impacts a natural gas production project would have on other values found in the project area. This area of the Rocky Mountain Front, called Blackleaf, has magnificent scenery, abundant and diverse wildlife, plus unique cultural heritage. It may also contain significant natural gas reserves.

In a later meeting, the RAC members will learn about the other values and interests involved with the proposed natural gas development.

"The BLM is neither pro- nor anti-development," said Don Judice of the Great Falls Field Station. "But we are mandated to manage multiple-use lands and evaluate proposals by holders of valid existing leases."

The BLM and the Forest Service will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS will address and disclose impacts associated with the proposed Blackleaf Natural Gas Development Project. The RAC will provide recommendations to the BLM throughout the preparation of the EIS. According to Lynn Ricci, Team Leader for the Blackleaf EIS, the BLM wants

recommendations from the RAC on this project and wants the RAC to be involved at whatever level it desires. The NEPA process emphasizes public participation and continual collaboration with other agencies.

Each agency will provide approximately 12 members to the EIS interdisciplinary team. A private contractor will assist the BLM and FS with the preparation of the EIS. In September, the RAC will elect a representative from its council to participate on the Blackleaf interdisciplinary team to provide input throughout the process and keep the other RAC members informed as the EIS is prepared. The interdisciplinary team will provide oversight, input and review of the EIS. Baseline data about vegetation, wildlife, visual resource management and cultural heritage is being collected now. The RAC's next step in the process is to provide the BLM with input on issues and concerns it has related to the Blackleaf Project. RAC members will share these issues and concerns with the BLM in a two hour session at the September 24-25 RAC meeting in Fort Benton.

After public scoping comments are compiled and the BLM has prepared a summary of the comments received, the RAC will dedicate an entire day on December 3 to hearing formal presentations coordinated by the BLM. The RAC will also hear public comments at this meeting. The RAC will then begin to provide recommendations to the BLM regarding the proposed action and alternative ways to implement the proposed action.



The Blackleaf area of the Rocky Mountain Front. (Photo by Chuck Otto)



Don Judice tells RAC members and members of the public about the Blackleaf. (Photo by Chuck Otto)

Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets on the first Tuesday of odd-numbered months at Elmer's Pancake and Steak House, 2455 Central Avenue in Billings. Each meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. and features a short program.

If you would like to receive email notifications of these meetings and other office functions, please send your address to Cynthia Embretson at ceatsage@wtp.net, or call her at 252-1367.

The Public Lands Foundation offers new retirees a free on-year membership. Please contact Bill Noble, PLF Montana Representative, at 406-656-0267 to join.

Please also help us keep our *Quarterly Steward* mailing list current by contacting Ann Boucher of the External Affairs staff at 406-896-5011 with address changes.

Retired from Montana/Dakotas BLM since
July 1, 2003:

Walter Johnson — 19 years
Park Ranger, Butte Field Office

Sharon Gregory – 20 years
Range Technician, Lewistown Field Office

Millard Hulse – 37 years
Information Technology Specialist,
Butte Field Office

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